



STATE OF IDAHO

The Capitol Mall Geothermal Energy Project

*Providing low-cost space
and hot water heating
for the Capitol and adjacent
state office buildings*

The Department of Administration, Division of Public Works, in partnership with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, pioneered the use of geothermal energy with completion in 1982 of the **Capitol Mall Geothermal Energy Project**.

Following a successful pilot demonstration project in 1975, and stimulated by the energy crisis of the 1970s, two wells were drilled to depths of 2,100 and 3,000 feet on the east and northwest corners of the Mall area.

The system, was built at a cost of \$1,850,000, and has produced through natural artesian pressure, low-cost space and hot water heating (750,000 square feet) for the **Idaho Statehouse** and **eight other major state buildings** for nearly 20 years.

In 1981, the estimated natural gas cost savings was projected at \$150,000 per year, and when calculated appropriately through the years, would represent an estimated **savings of over \$4 million today**.

The existing natural gas heating system is retained as a backup to the geothermal system and for supplying additional heat requirements on extremely cold days.

This natural hot water source has heated homes and businesses in east Boise for nearly a century.

The first wells were drilled in Boise by the *Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company*, later sold to the Boise Water Corporation, and, finally, to the Boise Warm Springs Water district. In 1979, Boise Geothermal was formed, a coordinating agency working with the Water district and the city.

(Revised 2005)